

App. No. 10/522,887
Office Action Dated June 6, 2008

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a transgenic Indica rice variety comprising:

- a. Constructing an expression vector for plant transformation that comprises a promoter, a Manganese superoxide dismutase (MnSOD) coding sequence derived from *Nicotiana Plumbaginifolia L.*, and a transit peptide coding sequence, wherein the promoter, the transit peptide coding sequence and the MnSOD coding sequence are operably linked;
- b. Transforming rice calli of said indica rice variety with the vector constructed in step (a);
and
- c. Regenerating the transformed calli into mature transgenic plants of said rice variety.

18. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein said transit peptide coding sequence is a Pea ribulose-1-5-bisphosphate carboxylase small subunit transit peptide coding sequence.

19. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 17, wherein said promoter is a Cassava vein mosaic Virus (CVMV) promoter (CaMV).

20. (Currently Amended). The method according to claim 17, wherein a terminator used is a NOS terminator said MnSOD coding sequence is further operably linked to a NOS terminator.

21-22. (Cancelled)

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23. (Previously presented) The transgenic rice variety produced by the method according to claim 17, wherein said transgenic rice variety produces 30-95% increase in superoxide dismutase (SOD) activity.

24. (Previously presented). The transgenic rice variety according to claim 23, wherein said transgenic rice variety is selected from the group consisting of Godavari 8 and Salween 2, and produces 30-95% increase in superoxide dismutase (SOD) activity.

25. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein said transgenic plants display increased yield as compared to that of non-transgenic plants under environmental stress conditions, increased tolerance as compared to that of non-transgenic plants to pathogen attack, and play a role in the food industry by increasing a shelf life of said rice variety as compared to that of non-transgenic plants.

26-28. (Canceled)